Executive Ctee.No. 3
July 1949

M I N U T E S

of the

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

of the

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Chichester, England

July 6th - 9th, 1949.

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Minutes of the second meeting of the
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chichester, England
July 6th - 9th, 1949

1. Present: The Bishop of Chichester, Chairman; Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Vice-Chairman; Professor H. Alivisatos, Dr. Marc Boegner, Bishop Y. Brilioth, Rev. Leslie Cooke, Professor Georges Florovsky, Archbishop Germanos, Dr. Alphons Koechlin, Mr. George Lombard, Dr. John R. Mott, Dr. Martin Niemöller, Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam, Dr. Gordon Sisco, Mrs. Leslie Swain.

Staff Dr. W.A. Visser 't Hooft, Dr. Robert Mackie, Rev. Oliver Tomkins, Bishop Stephen C. Neill, Dr. Henry Smith Leiper, Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Dr. Hendrik Kraemer, Miss Jean Fraser, Mr. Frank Northam, Rev. Robert S. Bilheimer, Dr. N. Ehrenström.

2. Presiding: The Bishop of Chichester, Chairman
Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Vice-Chairman.

3. Opening Prayer. The meeting was opened with a brief period of prayer led by the Bishop of Chichester. Morning and evening prayers were held each day in the chapel, different members of the committee leading.

4. Minutes. The minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee of February 8 - 10, 1949, were approved as circulated.

5. Relation of the Executive Committee meeting to the Central Committee meeting.

It was agreed to begin on Thursday morning with questions relating to Orthodox Churches and Faith and Order, and then to take up the question of the life of the Church in communist-controlled areas, with a view to deciding how the discussion on this subject should be developed at the Central Committee meeting. In the afternoon of Thursday, the sub-committee on Finance, together with any other necessary sub-committees, would meet, and following this the points on the agenda would be taken up in order.

6. Programme and Agenda of the Central Committee

The General Secretary presented a draft programme and agenda, and after discussion a schedule for the meeting was adopted.

7. Press arrangements for the Central Committee

A proposal from the Conference of USA Member Churches was read suggesting that all plenary sessions should be open to the press, with the exception of stated periods. After discussion, it was decided to recommend that, with the exception of Sunday evening, Monday and Tuesday, the sessions should be open to the press.

8. Faith and Order

Mr. Tomkins reported on the plans of the Commission of Faith and Order, including the following points:

a) the time, nature and scope of the next Faith and Order Conference;

b) the content of the Faith and Order programme, especially as regards the addition to the present subjects of the Theological Commissions (Intercommunion, the Nature of the Church, and Ways of Worship) of the consideration of non-dogmatic factors in Church unity;

c) the relation of Faith and Order to the processes of the World Council, particularly in regard to regional committees of Faith and Order, lay and youth participation, publications, and the relation of Faith and Order to the Churches as such and to Faith and Order interests within the Churches ;

d) the work of Faith and Order in regard to the Orthodox Churches and the Roman Catholic Church.

Discussion centred chiefly around the next Faith and Order Conference, as a result of which the following resolution was adopted for referral to the Central Committee. It should be noted that item 4 of the following is to be referred to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee:

Memorandum from the Commission on Faith and Order on matters requiring decision by the Central Committee

I. The time, place and nature of the next World Conference on Faith and Order

1. In accordance with Article III(i), (vi) and note of the Constitution of the World Council of Churches and Articles III(iii) and IV(iv) of the Constitution of the Faith and Order Commission, the Commission is required (a) to inform the Council when its studies have reached a point at which the Churches should be invited to send chosen representatives to consider them at a World Conference on Faith and Order specially convened for that purpose and (b) to submit the report of that Conference for consideration by the Churches.

2. The Executive Committee of Faith and Order (a) is assured that the Theological Commissions cannot complete their

work before 1951 and that one year at least is needed for the study of their findings by the Churches,
(b) is convinced that a Faith and Order Conference held in close proximity to the Assembly would not ensure adequate attention to its specific purpose,
(c) has been assured of a welcome to Lund, Sweden, in 1952. Any other place suggested should be discussed by the Faith and Order Commission.

It therefore asks the Central Committee to authorise the Faith and Order Commission to proceed with plans to hold a conference, in some place which the Commission may decide, in the summer of 1952, to which the Central Committee, in the name of the World Council, should later issue invitations to the Churches to be represented.

3. New problems are raised in view of the fact that, for the first time, such a Conference would be held within the general framework of the W.C.C. and its Assemblies. Clearly it is wasteful both of time and money to hold a larger conference than is necessary for its specific purpose and many Church leaders of a type who attended Lausanne and Edinburgh better fulfil their responsibility to their Churches as delegates to an Assembly. The Faith and Order Executive therefore proposes a conference of 200 to 250 qualified and specially designated theologians and requests the Central Committee to authorise the Commission to work out a plan whereby

(a) the member-Churches of the W.C.C. (together with certain non-member Churches who have previously co-operated with Faith and Order; see Baarn minutes of Central Committee 1948, p.31) should be invited to be represented at such a conference. Whether the representation should be directly or through regional or confessional grouping of Churches should be a matter for consultation between the Commission and the several Churches.

(b) the total number of participants should be 200 to 250.

(c) some provision should be made for a limited number of theological experts not appointed by their Churches to participate, though without vote.

(d) such a conference should have the means of reporting its findings direct to the participating Churches, though the Commission shall discuss the title of such a conference (e.g. Third World Conference on Faith and Order or some other designation) and the relationship between its report to the Churches and the preparatory process for the Assembly in 1953 and its subsequent report to the member-Churches.

4. The Executive Committee of Faith and Order asks the Central Committee to instruct its Finance Committee to consider whether all or part of the £4,000 (carried into the World Council from the previous income of Faith and Order) might be

allocated towards the expenses of such a conference. (See F. and O. Executive Minutes of 11th March 1949).

9. Message to Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard

Dr. Mott reminded the Committee that July 7 is the wedding anniversary of Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. It was agreed to send a message from the Committee, particularly because of the assistance given to the World Council at Amsterdam last summer by the Royal Family.

10. The Orthodox Churches.

Professor Alivisatos read a statement on behalf of the Orthodox Churches which was received with gratification, and which he was requested to read to the Central Committee (See the Minutes of the Central Committee).

It was agreed that the Executive Committee recommend to the Central Committee that a proper resolution of greeting be sent by the Central Committee to the Archbishop of Athens, and further that a message be sent by the Central Committee to the newly-appointed Œcumenical Patriarch.

11. Churches in communist-controlled areas

The Bishop of Chichester suggested that the Central Committee be provided with a factual statement of the present situation of the Churches in the communist-controlled areas, together with the material on the subject in the General Secretary's report and in the statement to be made by Mr. Grubb, and that the meeting be thrown open for general discussion and the preparation of a statement on the subject.

After prolonged discussion, it was agreed (a) that the Bishop of Chichester, Professor Joseph Hromadka, Pasteur Boegner and Dr. Fry be asked to provide statements on the subject; (b) that a group be appointed to follow the ensuing discussion in the Central Committee with a view to preparing a statement; and (c) that Bishop Neill and Dr. Nolde be requested to prepare a preliminary draft of a statement on the matter in advance.

12. Report of the Finance Committee

Bishop Oxnam presented the report of the Finance Committee, drawing attention to the responsibility of the Finance Committee as defined in the rules, namely:

> to present annually to the Central Committee an account of income and expenditure for the previous twelve months, and a balance sheet in respect of operations of all departments of the World Council of Churches.
>
> to present annually to the Central Committee in advance of the commencement of each year, a budget covering the operations of all the departments of the World Council of Churches.

(This report is given in the form of the record of the proceedings of the sub-committee on Finance, of which Bishop Oxnam is Chairman and Mr. Frank Northam is Secretary.)

a) Actual Revenue and Expenditure to May 31, 1949

Bishop Oxnam pointed out that the proportion of actual revenue to budgetted revenue had shown a progressive improvement in the months of April and May, but that at the end of May the sum received represented only some 61% of the fraction of the year's revenue which should be received in five months. He then asked for a report on the prospects for revenue.

Dr. Leiper reported that there seemed every reason to hope that the full sum of $240,000 would be received from the United States of America in 1949. The Secretary then reported on the prospects from other countries, and the Committee drew the conclusion that at least $45,000 could be hoped for from the budget of $60,000.

Attention was then turned to the expenses to May 31, and it was noted that these represented substantially less than five-twelfths of the reduced annual level of expenditure approved at the February meeting of the Executive Committee. In general it was concluded that the operations for the first five months appeared to be on a financially sound basis.

Bishop Oxnam enquired by what procedure the operations were financed during the early months when revenue fell short of expenditure. The Secretary explained that there were limited reserves which could be used to finance expenses and that, in so far as these were inadequate, the operations were financed from funds received for Reconstruction purposes and as yet unused, either because the donor did not wish them to be distributed at once, or because the beneficiary did not want them transmitted at once.

b) Expenditure for the Calendar Year 1949

The Committee then considered paper "Central Committee No. 9", setting out the expected actual expenditure in 1949. The Secretary drew attention to the following changes, as compared with the level of expenditure approved at the February meeting:

(i) Provision had been made for an additional secretary in the Study Department from September 1, 1949. In this connection the General Secretary pointed out that it had been impossible to engage an officer for this post on a provisional basis, and the Committee agreed to recommend the approval of the appointment of an additional secretary for the Study Department.

(ii) Provision had been made for the appointment of a secretary for Evangelism as from August 1, 1949.

The Secretary pointed out that no provision had been made for the appointment of an administrative assistant for the General Secretary, for the creation of a Department of Information, or for the appointment of a secretary for Women's Work. The Chairman asked the General Secretary whether the deferment of the appointment of an administrative assistant was suggested on financial grounds or because the post was unnecessary. The General Secretary replied that it was both on financial grounds and because of lack of clarity as to the functions of the post and the type of person who could occupy it, that deferment was suggested. The Committee discussed each of the three items and agreed to recommend that action on these points should be deferred, noting that, in the case of a secretary for Women's Work it was improbable that an officer could take office before the end of the year, but that provision might have to be made for some expenditure if the work could be commenced in 1949, should the Central Committee so desire.

The Secretary drew attention to two items for which provision must be made, and which had not been considered at the February meetings, namely:

I. The Far-Eastern Conference: Contrary to the expectations at the time of the February meetings, it had now been decided to hold the Far-Eastern Conference in December, 1949, and provision was needed for the World Council's share of one-third of the estimated total cost of the Conference and for the estimated travelling expenses of the General Secretary in connection with the Conference. To cover these two items it would be necessary to raise the $2,000 included in the revised level approved in February of $7,300.

II. Expenses of the World Council Representative in Germany:

The Secretary reported that, whereas it had originally been hoped to cover these expenses from other sources of revenue, it was now necessary to make some provision from the general budget, since Propst Høgsbro would remain in office for sixteen months instead of one year, and his expenses were higher than had been expected. It was suggested that $2,000 should be provided from the general budget and that the other two-thirds of his expenses should be, subject to the approval of the Administrative Committee of that department, provided from the special Administration Fund of the Department of Reconstruction.

The Committee agreed to recommend the approval of provision for these two expenses.

Dr. Mackie suggested that it might be possible to interest the Church of Norway in making a contribution toward the expenses of the World Council representative in Germany. The Committee agreed to recommend that a letter should be addressed by the General Secretary to the Church of Norway, enquiring whether such a contribution could be made and explaining that the

Finance Committee would greatly appreciate any help which could be given to the World Council in this matter, in view of the present financial situation.

The Secretary reported that the implication of the foregoing decisions was that expenditure for the year 1949 was likely to be at the rate of $346,000, or $17,000 below the 1949 budget approved at the Amsterdam Assembly.

III. Headquarters Buildings

The General Secretary recalled that, at the February meetings, action had been taken to make possible the adoption of plans for an extension to buildings before the present meeting of the Executive Committee. He reported that it had not been found necessary to take action under this authority, since it had been found possible to accommodate the staff within the existing space. He further reported that no specific plan for extension of buildings was proposed at the present time, since it was felt that it would be wiser to wait until the prospects for income of the normal budget were clearer. On the other hand, the barracks in which a part of the staff is at present accommodated have a limited life and the problem will, therefore, necessarily arise before very long. The proposal of a specific plan was, however, further complicated by the uncertainties as to the plans of the town of Geneva for the development of the area. After discussion, it was agreed to recommend that the Executive Committee should report to the Central Committee:

That the situation as regards headquarters buildings is unsatisfactory, particularly in that the barrack offices will, within a relatively short time, need replacement, and that the staff should therefore be instructed to develop a concrete plan for the future development of the properties, for submission to the Central Committee in 1950, such plan to cover the need for a chapel and adequate accommodation for the library, as well as new offices. Under these circumstances, any gifts which can be secured for the commencement of a Building Fund would be most needful and desirable.

IV. 1950 Budget

The Secretary reported that a draft 1950 budget had been prepared on the assumption that contributions from member-Churches would amount in 1950 to $300,000, but that it had been found impossible to include within this budget four items for which provision was felt to be highly desirable, namely:

For salary increases for staff	$5,000
For share of expense of possible joint I.M.C./W.C.C. office in Far East	3,500
For addition to New York budget of Youth Department	3,000
For Secretary for Women's Work	8,500
	$20,000

The Committee expressed the view that no additional revenue could be relied upon and asked that the General Secretariat should make proposals for a reduction of $20,000 in the budget to permit the inclusion of the above-mentioned additions. The General Secretary subsequently presented proposals which were discussed in detail and amended in the light of that discussion, and it was finally agreed that the reduction of $20,000 should be effected as follows:-

Reduction in suggested budget:	
General Secretariat, Geneva	
Printing and Publications	$1,000
Miscellaneous Unforeseen	1,000
Travel	5,000
General Secretariat, New York	
Printing	1,500
General Secretariat, London	
Travel	500
Faith and Order	1,000
Reserve for Second World Assembly	10,000
	$20,000

In connection with the retention in the budget of the provision of $8,500 for the Secretary for Women's Work, Mrs. Swain stated that she was sure that the retention of this item, in spite of the difficult financial position, would be greatly appreciated by the American Women's Church organisations, and expressed the hope that it might be possible to secure from them some additional contributions to the World Council budget in excess of the promised Church contributions. The Committee welcomed this information, and also the suggestion that it might be possible to secure special gifts for other purposes, such as the expense of the Far Eastern office.

In connection with the amount of $3,000 retained in the budget for salary increases for staff, it was agreed that no salary increases should be given before the February meeting of the Executive Committee, and that the whole position should be reviewed at that meeting in the light of actual revenue and prospects as at that date.

In connection with the omission of the suggested increase of $3,000 in the New York budget of the Youth Department, it was agreed that the American members of the Finance sub-committee should be asked to examine the need for this after their return to New York and to report to the February Executive Committee meeting whether they felt able to recommend that this increase should be granted. They were also asked to report to the General Secretary the conclusions reached after their investigation as soon as it had been completed.

In connection with the reduction of the reserve for the second Assembly from the originally suggested figure of $20,000

to $10,000, the Committee expressed its dissatisfaction that this action should be necessary and agreed that, in principle, any surplus which might be realised on the 1949 budget, any additional grant which the Conference of American Member-Churches might find itself able to make in 1949, and any other special gifts that might be secured should first be applied to the restoration of this cut.

V. Job Grading and Salary Scales

The Committee agreed that approval of the list of grades and salary scales submitted by the General Secretariat after consultation with the Chairman of the Headquarters Finance Committee, should be recommended to the Executive Committee.

After discussion of this report of the Finance Committee, it was agreed to recommend it favourably to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

13. 1951 Budget

After discussion, it was agreed to ask the General Secretary to raise the question of the 1951 budget with the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

14. Terms of Appointment

It was decided to recommend to the Central Committee that the Associate General Secretaries should be appointed until the next meeting of the Assembly in 1953, on the understanding that this arrangement could be altered on three months' notice from either side, if circumstances made a change necessary.

It was further decided to recommend to the Central Committee that the Executive Committee be given power to fix the period of service of other members of the senior staff, on the understanding that any arrangement made could be altered on three months' notice from either side if circumstances made a change necessary.

15. Staff Appointments

On the nomination of the Administrative Committee of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid, it was decided:

a) to appoint the Rev. Robert Tobias Assistant Director in the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid with the status of head of a Department;

b) to appoint Pastor Bengt Hoffman as a member of staff of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid for two years from the beginning of 1950 with the possibility of reconsideration on either side at the end of the first year with three months' notice given;

(c) to appoint M. André Dominique Micheli as a member of staff of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid until summer of 1950 with the possibility of another year's service.

16. Re-appointment of staff

It was decided to re-appoint the following staff-members, who had been appointed by the Central Committee or the Executive Committee:

Robert S. Bilheimer, Programme Secretary in N. America
Jan Mirejovsky, Youth Department
William Keys, Youth Department
Wolfgang Schweitzer, Study Department
Alexandre de Weymarn, Ecumenical Press Service
Bernard Causton, Press Secretary
Alan Haigh, Finance Department
W. Kordon, Finance Department
Elfan Rees, Refugee Division
H. Klopponburg, Refugee Division

These appointments are terminable on three months' notice on either side.

17. Sub-Committees of the Central Committee

a) Committees for the Central Committee: Six sub-committees of the Central Committee were suggested and it was agreed to submit these suggestions to the Central Committee.

b) Committee on the Life and Work of Women in the Churches: It was agreed that Mrs. Swain would act as the convenor of this Committee, and that in so doing she would outline the various questions to be answered, the scope of the committee's work, the composition of the Commission, the nomination of a Secretary, and the character of the long report called for by the action of the Assembly.

18. Membership of Bishop Reeves on the Central Committee:

On consecration as Bishop of Johannesburg, Canon Reeves ceased to be a member of the Church of England and became a member of the (Anglican) Church of the Province of South Africa, which has independent membership in the World Council of Churches. The Executive Committee is of the opinion that the transfer of Bishop Reeves from one member-Church of the World Council of Churches to another does not automatically create a vacancy in either the Executive Committee or the Central Committee, since membership in these Committees is not specifically attached to membership in particular Churches. Nevertheless it is agreed that if Bishop Reeves chooses to resign from the Central Committee for reasons of distance from its meeting-places, thus enabling the Church of England to appoint another member in his place, the Executive Committee

recommends to the Central Committee that he be made a permanent consultant to the Central Committee until the next Assembly.

19. Membership of the World Council

a) The Latvian Church: It was reported that an application for membership in the World Council had been received from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, which exists now principally in refugee camps, with headquarters in Germany. The qualification for membership in the Council of stability in Church life being noted, however, it was agreed that action in this matter be deferred.

b) Survey of non-member Churches: It was reported that the Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches had requested that a survey be made of those Churches not now members of the World Council, in order to ascertain their reasons for not joining the Council. After discussion, it was agreed that a formal survey would create great difficulties, and should not be undertaken, but that committee members and staff should constantly be in touch with Churches not yet members of the Council.

c) It was agreed that an application for membership received from Caodism could not be taken into consideration.

20. Friends of the World Council: It was proposed that there be formed a loose organisation of individuals, to be known as Friends of the World Council of Churches, in which individuals would subscribe funds and receive World Council literature, thus in a personal way becoming related to the World Council. In view of the difficulty, however, of promoting such an organisation internationally, particularly in view of somewhat similar schemes promoted by different national councils, it was agreed that Mr. Tomkins should consult the representatives of different national councils at the Central Committee meeting with a view to formulating a definite proposal.

21. Basis of the World Council: It was reported that no official request had come for initiating a further study of the basis, and that this fact should be reported to the Central Committee.

22. Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid

Dr. Mackie outlined the position of the Department of Reconstruction and Inter-Church Aid, indicating that the two basic operations of the Department were refugees and inter-Church aid. The work of the Department, however, is handicapped greatly by the following facts:-

a. Inter-Church aid.

i. There is a great disproportion in what is being done. Of the 4½ million dollars given or promised for 1949, by far the largest proportion comes from the Lutheran World Federation. Without adequate support from other Churches great sections of need are bound to be neglected, e.g. Orthodox Churches.

ii. There is a lack of control over the total work, because of the lack of funds. The vast majority of the gifts recorded are decided quite apart from the Department.

iii. There is a need to stop thinking in terms of "reconstruction" and to think in terms of Inter-Church aid, which involves the health programme, scholarships, new experiments in evangelism, lay work and assistance to Churches. Nevertheless, it is impossible to go on in any case unless there is greatly augmented help.

b. Refugees.

i. There are three bodies operating in the field of refugees; the Lutheran World Federation, Church World Service and the World Council. There is a great need to integrate C.W.S. and the W.C.C. operations, and to work more closely with the Lutheran World Federation. It is desired that the Central Committee should express itself on this matter.

ii. The Refugee Division is, according to the latest word from C.W.S., $136,000 short of its budget for 1949. It may be necessary to release staff, and possibly even to refuse certain funds which are now available, because there will be no opportunity to spend them wisely on the necessarily reduced staff basis.

c. Administrative budget.

i. The budget for 1949 is assured. 80% comes from C.W.S., and 20% from other sources.

ii. On Inter-Church aid, there are six staff people, two of whom are supplied by the Churches and are not to be replaced. If no further funds are available, this is too large a staff; if an adequate sum is provided, it is too small a staff.

After a prolonged discussion of Dr. Mackie's report, in which the Committee took full cognisance of the seriousness of the Department's position, it was agreed to request a Committee consisting of Bishop Oxnam, Dr. Fry and Dr. Mackie to determine what action is needed by the Central Committee.

23. Study Department

a) It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that it express its approval of the programme of the Study Department as outlined in its report. It urges the member-Churches and Christian groups to give serious consideration both in sustained study and appropriate action, to the issues raised in these enquiries, as they are of foremost importance for the life and witness of the Churches today.

b) It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the Study Department Committee be authorised to co-opt outside

the stipulated thirty regular members, not more than seven consultant members representing related ecumenical agencies.

c) It was agreed to recommend to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee that the Study Department be authorised to reserve for 1951 the balance, if any, of its combined conference and travel budget for 1950, in view of the fact that its conference programme is likely to be developed from 1951 onwards as the next Assembly draws nearer.

d) It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that Dr. J.C. Hoekendijk be made available to the Study Department for part-time service as Secretary of the enquiry on "Evangelism of Man in Modern Mass Society" for the period of the enquiry, in view of the intimate relationship between his work as Secretary for Evangelism and this enquiry. It is understood that Dr. Hoekendijk in this function should have the status of a staff member of the Department.

e) It was agreed to appoint Dr. Paul Abrecht as a staff member jointly of the Study Department and the Ecumenical Institute, two-thirds of his salary to be paid by the Study Department and one-third by the Ecumenical Institute.

f) It was agreed to authorise the General Secretariat to arrange Dr. Ehrenström's work for the next year in such a way as to give him sufficient leisure to study for the higher theological qualifications which he requires.

24. Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Dr. Nolde reported briefly on the work of the C.C.I.A., indicating that a full report would be made to the Central Committee, and indicating further that the Central Committee would be asked to deal with ideological conflicts involved in international affairs of the present time, with a request for a resolution supporting the motion for prayer at the beginning of United Nations sessions, with a proposed letter to Chinese Christians; and with proposed projects for study including the race question in South Africa, international law, and the theological aspects of the problem of war and peace.

25. Secretary of Evangelism

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported that Dr. J.C. Hoekendijk had been engaged as Secretary of Evangelism following the action of the Executive Committee at its February meeting, and that already his prospective work was well developed, including the enquiry of the Study Department and specially requested work with the International Missionary Council. It was agreed that an advisory committee for the Secretary of Evangelism should not be appointed at this time.

26. Department of Information

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported that although it was impossible

to create the full Department of Information as outlined at Amsterdam, considerable work was nevertheless being done. Mr. Bernard Causton had been engaged as Press Secretary in Geneva; the Ecumenical Press Service continued and had also a New York edition; Mr. Hamilton in the New York office was developing public relations there.

27. Joint Committee of I.M.C. and W.C.C.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft reported briefly on the work of the Committee, referring to the proposed East Asia Conference to be held in Bangkok in December; to the proposal to be submitted to the Central Committee on relations with the National Christian Councils, and to the decision of the Committee to enlarge its scope so as to include within its purview not only administrative matters, but the broader questions of joint strategy and policy.

28. Second Assembly, 1953

It was agreed to suggest to the Central Committee that the Conference of U.S.A. Member Churches be given power to decide the location in the United States of the Second Assembly.

It was agreed to suggest to the Central Committee that it engage in preliminary discussions of the content and arrangements for the Second Assembly, leaving more definite decisions until its meeting in 1950.

It was agreed that late August was a satisfactory date, precise date however to be determined in the light of the place of the Assembly.

29. Statements by the Presidium

In discussion it was agreed that there are two types of statements by the Presidium, of which the first is a message on the occasion of some pressing event and of which the second is an annual message. No formal action was taken in reference to the first, but the hope was expressed that such messages would be infrequent. In regard to the second, it was recommended that the Presidium should issue a greeting to the Churches on Whitsunday of each year, and that this should include a call to prayer.

30. Executive Committee

It was agreed to suggest to the Nominating Committee of the Central Committee that a minority of the Committee be newly elected each year, thus allowing for substantial continuity within the Committee.

It was agreed that the Bishop of Chichester, Bishop Oxnam and Dr. Fry be asked to investigate the matter of more adequate lay participation in the Executive Committee.

It was agreed that if a member of the Executive Committee is not able to attend a given meeting, and the General Secretariat is convinced of the need for representation from his Church or confession, the General Secretariat may on consultation with the officers invite a consultant to sit with the Executive Committee for that meeting.

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Executive Committee would be on February 21-23, 1950, in or near Geneva.

31. Future Meetings of the Central Committee

Previous suggestions as to the dates and places of the future meetings of the Central Committee were reviewed, and it was agreed to refer the following suggestions to the Central Committee:-

1950	Canada
1951	Far East, or Southern Europe (Athens, Southern France, Beirut were suggested)
1952	Scandinavia
1953	United States

It was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that whenever possible its meetings be held early in July.